

Bill HB#6375 Sect. 2 (3) #6

To Legislators Overseeing Bill #HB 6375 Sect 2 (e) #6

I am the Director of Deaf Out Reach Services at FSW in Bridgeport and I was shocked to see this Bill being presented for the following reasons: CDHI works along with FSW to provide emergency on call services to hospitals and CDHI also provides on call for DCF investigations. There is an interpreting shortage not only in CT but across the nation and we need to maintain a sufficient level of interpreters to cover Federal and State mandates. If you close CDHI, a large number of interpreters will leave the state to find work somewhere else, leaving our state with such depleted numbers that Court Systems, DCF, DHMAS, School systems, etc will be unable to carry out their statutorily-mandated responsibilities to provide equal access to the deaf and hearing impaired. There are Federal mandates as well as several state laws that require CDHI to provide interpreting services, as well as to oversee the licensing of interpreters to make sure that interpreters are certified to do the appropriate interpreting services. Who is going to oversee the qualifications of interpreters?? Closing CDHI will leave such a vacuum that it would take years to recover, if at all. More importantly, this bill will open the state to liability to lawsuits against all entities that violate Federal and State mandates, not to mention basic Human Rights to access. I urge you to vote NO on bill #HB6375 Sect. 2 (e)#6.

Thank you,

Rachel Spillane  
Director  
Deaf Out Reach Services  
FSW